

## Little Girl 791

Chapter 791:

In the deep of night, within the Imperial Study Room, Shi Guiren, now a concubine, was grinding ink for Emperor Longteng.

The Emperor's desk was already piled with a stack of memorials.

After Emperor Longteng reviewed the last memorial, his brows furrowed tightly. He threw the memorial aside, causing a muffled 'thud' sound.

"Your Majesty, it's getting late. Aren't you resting?"

Shi Guiren, noticing Emperor Longteng's expression and having gained the Empress Dowager's favor due to Little Xinlin's Delicious Spiritual Food Buns, had ascended to the status of concubine after returning to the palace for a month.

The Empress Dowager, seeing the clumsiness of the palace maids in the Emperor Longteng's Imperial Study, had Shi Guiren attend to Emperor Longteng.

Seeing Emperor Longteng's consistent worry over the past few days, Shi Guiren knew that something was troubling him.

"My birthday is approaching, and with a bunch of trivial matters to deal with, none are resolved to my satisfaction. They are all useless! How can I rest?"

Emperor Longteng stood up.

The birthday banquet was just around the corner, but the chefs responsible for the outside palace banquet arrangements were still not all found.

In the past few days, De Yue Building had encountered problems, and Emperor Longteng was very dissatisfied with Master Chen's ability to handle things.

Yet, in Purple Cloud City, it was impossible to find another Spiritual Delicacy Master in such short notice.

At this rate, the banquet scheduled for the day might actually not be able to proceed as planned.

Moreover, recently Purple Cloud City has been visited by many foreign dignitaries including envoys, princes, and generals, all of whom are not easy to handle and will be arriving in Purple Cloud City successively.

For the small country Longteng, all accommodations for foreign guests are arranged outside the palace.

The slightest hint of negligence in hospitality could potentially incite diplomatic issues.

"Your Majesty, with so many Spiritual Food Restaurants in Purple Cloud City, is it really impossible to find even one suitable Spiritual Delicacy Master?"

Shi Guiren, having been away from the city for many years, was not familiar with the Spiritual Delicacy Masters in the city.

"You don't understand, this Spiritual Delicacy Master must not only excel in culinary skills but must also be highly reputable, only then can he lead other Spiritual Delicacy Masters in preparing the banquet. The original head chef was Master Chen from De Yue Building. Another head chef's reputation and position cannot be lesser than Master Chen's. Initially, someone had recommended Master Ji from Taoyao Pavilion; his culinary skills are impeccable, but you know, Taoyao Pavilion is not a reputable place."

Master Ji was excluded from candidacy due to his bad reputation.

It is said that Master Ji has been despondent over this matter, and he passed away not too long ago. Now there really isn't anyone capable of replacing Master Ji.

"Right, do you have anyone to recommend? The Spiritual Delicacy Masters we currently need don't have to be superb, just proficient in making pastries and cold dishes. For example, the master who made the Spiritual Delicacy Buns you brought for the Empress Dowager last time should be capable."

Emperor Longteng recalled the Spiritual Delicacy Buns from the Empress Dowager's palace.

Their taste, too, was unparalleled.

Upon hearing this, Shi Guiren felt a slight stir in her heart, but she didn't know if she should really inform Emperor Longteng.

After all, Xin Lin had previously instructed her not to reveal that the Delicious Spiritual Food Buns were made by her.

"Your Majesty, Grand Doctor Chu requests an audience outside."

Just as Emperor Longteng's brows were knit with worry, a guard reported from outside.

"At this hour, what could Chu desire by entering the palace?"

Emperor Longteng wondered.

"Let him in."

Emperor Longteng gestured with a wave of his hand.

"Congratulations Your Majesty, I have found a chef who can take on the role of head chef for the Spiritual Cuisine Banquet. It's Master Ji from De Yue Building."

As soon as Chu Tianyi entered, he repeatedly offered his congratulations with a face full of joy.

Chapter 792:

Master Ji from Taoyao Pavilion?

Emperor Longteng and Shi Pin reacted differently.

"Isn't Master Ji from Taoyao Pavilion already dead?"

Emperor Longteng wondered.

"Your Majesty, I was referring to Master Ji, not Master Ji. Master Ji is the nephew of Master Ji; he learned great culinary skills from Master Ji. Tonight, I had the fortune to taste a bowl of soup, which was truly a delicacy among spiritual food."

Chu Tianyi said.

After tasting that bowl of Fire Emperor Auspicious Soup, he felt invigorated and the taste was beyond words.

The Emperor needs a Spiritual Delicacy Master, and having found a good one, he naturally recommended him to Emperor Longteng.

"Is that so?"

Upon hearing this, Emperor Longteng was overjoyed.

It was like someone brought a pillow when he wanted to sleep; Chu Tianyi indeed made a meritorious recommendation.

"It is indeed true, Your Majesty. I dare not conceal anything from you."

Chu Tianyi spoke with certainty.

"Summon someone, convey my decree, appoint Master Ji as one of the head chefs for the longevity banquet, to host the spiritual banquet outside the palace with Master Chen from De Yue Building, and ensure no mistakes."

Emperor Longteng immediately issued the decree. "Tianyi, you have replaced Bei Qing's role as Imperial Physician for years. Over these years, you've diligently served the Imperial Hospital, and contributed much. After the longevity banquet, I plan to officially appoint you as the head of the Imperial Hospital."

Emperor Longteng was in a good mood; Chu Tianyi's successful recommendation undoubtedly warranted a reward.

Upon hearing this, Chu Tianyi was even more delighted.

He immediately thanked for the grace and retreated.

As Chu Tianyi walked through the corridors of the Imperial Palace, humming a tune along the way, his mood was indescribably pleasant.

The head of the Imperial Hospital was a position second only to the Director of the Imperial Hospital; he would finally no longer be overshadowed by the reputation of Chu Beiqing.

Chu Beiqing, Chu Beiqing, from now on, people will only know my name, Chu Tianyi. Who will remember you, this fool?

The more Chu Tianyi thought about it, the happier he became, unaware of a fire burning fiercely inside him.

"Why is it so hot?"

Chu Tianyi walked a few steps, looked around, and felt as if there was a fire burning inside him.

His eyes turned blood red, his breath grew heavy, and he looked around; not far away was a deserted palace.

It was already deep into the night, and the eunuch walking ahead hadn't noticed that Chu Tianyi had gone astray.

When the eunuch turned around, he realized that Chu Tianyi had disappeared.

"Imperial Physician Chu?"

The eunuch immediately began searching around.

"Hot... so hot..."

Chu Tianyi felt as if his body was on fire, the more he walked, the more parched and restless he felt, as if something was trying to burst out.

He pushed open the ancient palace gate.

A placard marked "Cold Palace" hung above the gate, looking exceptionally desolate in the night.

Occasionally, the cries of women echoed non-stop in the deep autumn palace.

The Cold Palace within the Imperial Palace often housed unfavored and erring Concubines.

They were often no longer young, the oldest even more than seventy years old.

"Women... women..."

Chu Tianyi's eyes were blood red as he followed the crying sounds.

"Help..."

In the deep of night, bouts of sobbing came from the depths of the Cold Palace.

Alas, this Cold Palace had long been forgotten.

Until someone, disheveled, rushed out from the Cold Palace, and the guards discovered that a scoundrel had taken advantage of the darkness to intrude into the Cold Palace, continuously violating several concubines and nobles, including the guilty of the late Emperor.

Chapter 793: Super Scandal

The dawn was just breaking.

Xin Lin had a good night's sleep.

She got up and gathered Spiritual Energy.

Inside her body, the Earth Fire Pulse slightly stirred.

A large amount of Fire Spirit gathered within her body.

Xin Lin leaped to her feet, fists clenched, as Fire Spirit converged between them.

As she unleashed her Fist Power, a fierce blaze followed.

In her mind, she recalled the Third Move of the Ghost God Fist used by Gui Hu earlier.

She remembered clearly that the Third Move of the Ghost God Fist seemed to be a fusion of the Second Move and the Third Move; the boxing technique itself wasn't difficult.

When Gui Hu performed it, it seemed effortless and natural, as if done with ease, yet it seemed very intricate.

However, her mind was a mess, unable to remember a thing.

The Third Move of the Pride Corpse's Ghost God Fist seemed simple, yet also very complex.

It seemed that she would still have to please the Pride Corpse well to see if she could learn the Third Move.

Speaking of the Pride Corpse, Xin Lin just recalled that she hasn't seen him for three days, which seemed to have consumed quite a lot of Gui Hu's energy.

Xin Lin muttered to herself.

After a set of Ghost God Fist combined with a session of Five Elements Gathering Qi, by the time Xin Lin finished her cultivation, it was already fully lit outside.

She inspected her inner body; the Fire Land Vein had grown more than earlier, indeed, the growth of the Fire Land Vein was much faster than that of the bean sprouts.

Who knows when she would be able to absorb the Dragon Vein so that she could have one more Spirit Vein in her body, which would make her cultivation even more efficient.

Xin Lin drank a bottle of Jade Pure Spring and broke into a light sweat.

She had just changed her clothes, preparing to summon the Overlord Egg.

"Xin Lin, come quickly, Master Mo sent me to notify you, Chu Mansion is here to forcibly take your father away."

Outside, there was a series of urgent knocks on the door.

That lad Lu Yuan was pounding on Xin Lin's door early in the morning.

"I know."

Xin Lin calmly opened the door.

Lu Yuan was covered in sweat.

Ever since getting to know the folks from the School Clinic, Lu Yuan was frequently treated by Master Mo as free manpower.

For tasks like carrying water, tilling soil, and other such toilsome and exhausting work, Master Mo would call him over early in the morning to help, and Lu Yuan, being straightforward and obedient, would always be on call.

Who knew that this morning, as soon as Lu Yuan arrived, he saw several guards from Chu Mansion appear, looking fierce and aggressive as they came to capture someone.

At this moment, Master Mo was still waiting there.

Lu Yuan too was sweating profusely in anxiety.

But when he looked up, he saw Xin Lin appearing very composed, not the least bit nervous.

"Why aren't you worried at all?"

Lu Yuan was puzzled, knowing that Xin Lin always had a close relationship with her father, Chu Beiqing.

With such a serious matter, Xin Lin appeared so calm?

Something seemed off.

"Chu Mansion has no relation with my father and me anymore. We moved out so long ago, and Chu Tianyi hasn't reached out to us even once. Their sudden visit must mean that something has happened in Chu Mansion. Am I right?"

Xin Lin's delicate face showed complete understanding.

"Ah! How did you know!"

Lu Yuan was astounded.

That morning at court, the civil and military officials were in an uproar.

Because a major scandal had transpired within Longteng Palace.

A super scandal that had never happened since the founding of Longteng!

Emperor Longteng was furious.

The main culprit, at this moment, was still being held in the Imperial Palace Prison.

Regarding this matter, Lu Yuan only knew bits and pieces, vaguely aware that it was related to Chu Mansion.

As the legitimate granddaughter and eldest child of Chu Mansion, Xin Lin was naturally related.

The visit from Chu Mansion was likely to do with this matter.

Lu Yuan was extremely worried for Xin Lin, yet she remained unfazed.

"Let's go, we'll head to the Medical Hall and see."

Xin Lin said unhurriedly.

Chapter 794: The Fierce Grand Doctor Chu

In the School Clinic, Chu Miaoyun was confronting Master Mo along with more than a dozen guards from Chu Mansion.

"Master Mo, step aside. Today, Chu Beiqing must leave with me!"

Chu Miaoyun's voice was urgent, and her pretty face showed eyes that were slightly red and swollen.

"Who do you think you are? Why would Beibei have to go with you?"

Master Mo, like a mother hen protecting her chick, was guarding Chu Beiqing.

Chu Beiqing appeared clueless, still holding a warm roasted sweet potato in his hand, munching away happily.

"My father... my father is in trouble, we must find my uncle to return home."

Chu Miaoyun's voice also carried a sobbing tone.

She had been pampered since childhood and had never encountered such a situation.

Chu Tianyi was arrested, my third uncle has gone into the palace to seek mercy, grandfather has not yet finished his spiritual retreat, and father sent a message out, insisting that Chu Beiqing be found.

This time, father has caused an enormous disaster, only that fool can save my father.

"Uncle? I don't recall my father having a niece like you."

Xin Lin walked in.

"Xin Lin, you are also part of Chu Mansion, you must save my father."

Upon seeing Xin Lin, Chu Miaoyun changed from her earlier arrogance, advancing forward to plead.

"Oh? Grand Doctor Chu has divine skills, since when has it fallen to a bastard like me to do the saving? Do tell, what's happened to your father?"

Xin Lin's face was full of amusement.

"My father..."

Chu Miaoyun hesitated.

What her father did was so shameful it obliterated all the prestige of Chu Mansion; she absolutely couldn't let others know of that matter.

"Not going to say? If you won't say, then forget it. My father and I are very busy and have no time to meddle in others' business."

Xin Lin shrugged and began to leave with his foolish father.

"Wait! Xin Lin, are you going to just stand by and watch us die? We all belong to Chu Mansion, we share in both honor and disgrace. My father... due to certain reasons, offended some women in the Cold Palace last night..."

Chu Miaoyun spoke as if she were being bitten by mosquitoes.

"Some?"

Xin Lin pretended to be surprised.

"Eleven..."

"Offended?"

Xin Lin asked again.

"My father... I don't know what he consumed... he was impulsive for a moment."

Towards the end, Chu Miaoyun's voice faded away.

God knows what Chu Tianyi had eaten.

According to him, he only had some Spiritual Food at Taoyao Pavilion and then entered the palace.

When he met with Emperor Longteng in the palace, he was fine, but who knew that afterwards, he suddenly lost his senses and barged into the Cold Palace.

After waking up, Chu Tianyi was filled with regret.

He wept bitterly, claiming that there was something wrong with the Spiritual Food from Taoyao Pavilion.

However, Emperor Longteng also ordered an inspection of the Spiritual Food served at Taoyao Pavilion that night, including what Young Prince Tu, who dined together, had eaten, and they were all unharmed.

Thus, Chu Tianyi's claim that there was a problem with the Spiritual Food became untenable.

On one hand, Chu Miaoyun was angry at her father's disgrace, while on the other hand, she knew that if Chu Tianyi fell from power, as his daughter, she would be finished too.

The incident in the Cold Palace greatly angered Emperor Longteng.

To this day, Chu Zhaonan had still not been able to see Emperor Longteng. The only method left was to have Chu Beiqing enter the palace to have an audience with the Emperor.

Perhaps Emperor Longteng would spare Chu Tianyi this once for Chu Beiqing's sake.

"Indulging in promiscuity in the harem is a grave sin. However, Chu Tianyi is my father's blood brother after all. Fine, I'll enter the palace with my father to have an audience. Whether or not we can save your father, that will be up to fate."

Upon hearing this, Xin Lin had a face of "sorrow."

Even, it has to be said, Chu Tianyi was quite bold.

It seems that when Fire Emperor Auspicious Soup and Imperial Tea are combined, the effects are indeed potent.

Chapter 795: Evil Receives Its Due

Outside Longteng Palace, Xin Lin and Chu Miaoyun had just arrived.

According to a thunderous roar.

"Drag him out and behead him!"

Chu Miaoyun staggered and nearly fell to the ground.

"Dad!"

She scrambled and ran toward the hall, but was stopped by the guards.

"Emperor, spare me! That Spiritual Food wasn't made by me."

A man was then carried out by several guards.

That man was not Chu Tianyi, but Master Ji from Taoyao Pavilion.

Early this morning, Master Ji was suddenly summoned into the palace by the eunuchs.

He thought that this time, he was really going to rise to prominence, but little did he know, Master Ji's joy lasted only moments.

Emperor Longteng had him make some Spiritual Food, and Master Ji did his best, but Emperor Longteng became furious, accusing him of deceiving the Emperor and immediately ordered him to be dragged out and beheaded.

Master Ji died without understanding how he had deceived the Emperor.

That Four-star Spiritual Food wasn't made by him.

But when the Emperor asked him who made it, he didn't know either.

He only knew that it was crafted by an expert hired by the boss.

Whether that expert was thin or plump, male or female, Master Ji couldn't say at all.

He even suspected that he might have been the ghost of Master Ji.

This claim should have been better left unsaid; once voiced, it further angered Emperor Longteng who first ordered a severe beating of Master Ji, then his execution.

"Help... Xin Lin... help me..."

Master Ji, being dragged out, still sought help from Xin Lin.

Xin Lin, however, didn't even spare him a glance.

Behind, a scream followed, and Xin Lin's eyes darkened slightly, contemplating.

"Master Ji, I have only just begun avenging you. If you have a spirit in Heaven, just keep your eyes wide open and watch."

Father and daughter, along with the pale-faced Chu Miaoyun, were led by the guards to the front of the hall.

They saw Chu Zhaonan kneeling on the steps in front of the hall.

"Big brother, you've finally arrived."

Chu Zhaonan also looked distressed; such a disgraceful incident could implicate all of Chu Mansion.

The only hope was to rely on Chu Beiqing.

Chu Beiqing, however, didn't even look at Chu Zhaonan, just held onto his daughter.

"Darling... don't go... we are going... to catch shrimp..."

"Dad, I'll take you to catch shrimp in a bit, but first, let's take care of business."

Xin Lin said with a smile.

"Big brother?"

Chu Zhaonan tried again, calling out to Chu Bei.

Silly Chu seemed as if he hadn't heard.

Seeing this, Chu Zhaonan knew the only option left was to plead with Xin Lin.

"Great-niece, you've arrived. Please let your father go in and beg the Emperor to spare your second uncle this time."

Chu Zhaonan looked at Xin Lin, and for some reason, seeing Xin Lin's smiling face made him feel a sudden chill running up his spine.

After not seeing her for months, why did he feel this niece of his seemed more unfathomable than ever?

"Second uncle? Did I hear that wrong? I and the Chu Mansion have split. When we separated, it was made clear, from now on, we are like water not interfering with river water."

Xin Lin said nonchalantly.

After the split, the people from Chu Mansion hadn't cared about their life or death at all.

Not to mention, she had also learned that the poison in her father's body was related to Chu Tianyi, and whether it's connected to other members of the Chu Mansion still needs investigating.

One can't eat to become fat in one bite; those who harmed her dad, she wouldn't let any of them off.

Chapter 796: Empress Feng's Scheming

"My dear niece, you're being too formal with your uncle. After all, you carry your father's blood, and he is the eldest son of the Chu Family. Even if our households are separated, we still share a surname and a lineage. This time, your second uncle has been framed by others."

Chu Zhaonan chuckled dryly.

"Framed? By whom? I've heard that Chu Tianyi is virile enough to be with over a dozen women in one night. How could anyone force him to do that?"

Xin Lin said with a face full of surprise, raising her voice.

Beside her, several guards and palace maids all bowed their heads in silence, but looking at their shoulders, one could see them trembling slightly, evidently struggling to hold back laughter.

"Xin Lin, shut up! If you dare to slander my father again, I will fight you to the death!"

Chu Miaoyun was jumping with anger.

She couldn't cover up such a scandal fast enough, and there was Xin Lin, deliberately exacerbating it, making it impossible for her to face others.

"If I have to shut up, I will. I don't have the time to deal with such vile affairs anyway. Father, let's go back to the Academy and eat roasted sweet potatoes."

Xin Lin turned around and left; Chu Beiqing hurriedly followed his daughter, ready to depart.

"Wait! Miaoyun, aren't you going to apologize?"

Chu Zhaonan glared at Chu Miaoyun angrily.

With a face full of grievance, Chu Miaoyun had no choice but to step forward.

"Xin Lin, I was wrong. Please... save my father. We are all from the Chu Family. If my father dies, the Chu Family will fall."

Seeing Xin Lin unmoved, Chu Miaoyun gritted her teeth and suddenly knelt down before Chu Beiqing.

"Great uncle, I beg you, please save my father. Your niece is kowtowing to you."

She knocked her head on the ground several times.

Chu Beiqing looked on blankly.

"Your Excellency, could you please announce that my elder brother has arrived."

Seeing the situation, Chu Zhaonan hurriedly slipped a bar of gold to a eunuch nearby, who then entered the palace.

"How preposterous, not even capable of making two-star Spirit Food, yet claiming to have exceptional skills. Emperor Longteng and Master Ji must be tired of living."

In front of the palace, Emperor Longteng stood with his hands behind his back, his face filled with rage, and Empress Feng stood by his side, not daring to make a sound.

To think that such a scandal occurred last night in the Imperial Palace. If it weren't for the fact that the person involved was Chu Tianyi, the second son of the Chu Family and Chu Beiqing's younger brother, he would have been chopped countless times already.

"Emperor, please calm your anger. Chu Tianyi has always been loyal to his duties. This time, he must have been deceived by others. Those over a dozen people in the Cold Palace, I have already ordered them to be dealt with. The news has also been sealed. Besides Your Majesty, the Empress, and the Chu Family, I believe not many people are aware of this matter."

Empress Feng spoke gently.

Emperor Longteng did not respond.

"Reporting to the Emperor, Chu Beiqing and his daughter Xin Lin, Chu Zhaonan, and Chu Miaoyun are outside seeking an audience."

"The Chu Family's people have finally come to plead with me."

Emperor Longteng's expression softened slightly when he heard Chu Beiqing's name.

Since the last Zixiao Palace Exam, Emperor Longteng had not seen Chu Beiqing for many days.

Emperor Longteng had summoned him multiple times, but each time the response was that Chu Beiqing was unwilling to come.

Since Chu Beiqing had his daughter, he may still appear frivolous, but it's as if he has become a different person.

Something within Emperor Longteng was displeased.

"Emperor, the Chu Family people have come to plead. What do you plan to do? Although I know the Emperor will not truly make things difficult for the Chu Family, we cannot just let this go. The Emperor, who sits in Court, might be unaware that Chu Beiqing's daughter, while relying on the Emperor's favoritism towards her father, is causing trouble at Qingtian Academy."

When Empress Feng heard Xin Lin's name, her brows furrowed, and she thought of the matter with Chen You; she also had heard of it.

Chapter 797: Old Feelings

Upon hearing this, Emperor Longteng's expression subtly changed.

"Is this true?"

"Would a concubine dare deceive Your Majesty? Xin Lin relies on being Chu Beiqing's daughter and has injured Chen's Martial Meridian at Qingtian Academy, causing a huge uproar. Prince Chen had earlier wanted to complain to Princess Chen, and even her sister has brought the complaint to me. Knowing Your Majesty has been burdened with worries recently, I persuaded Princess Chen's sister to return."

Empress Feng looked deeply troubled.

The father of Chen You, Prince Chen, has a sister who entered the palace and is now one of Emperor Longteng's favored concubines.

She is one of Empress Feng's tools. Since Chen You's incident, she often acted pitifully in front of Empress Feng.

Seeing that Shi Guiren has been favored in the Imperial Palace these days, and many concubines and nobles covertly tried to cozy up to Shi Guiren, Empress Feng planned to take this opportunity to dampen Shi Guiren's spirits.

Disabling someone's Martial Meridian is comparable to severing their lineage for a Martial Artist.

It is utterly unbelievable for Emperor Longteng that such a frail woman as Xin Lin could do such a thing, yet Empress Feng is not a person who slanders.

"Your concubine knows Your Majesty always remembers Chu Beiqing's kindness. However, Your Majesty, though gratitude is profound, it shouldn't outweigh the royal laws. It's about time to discipline the people from Chu Mansion, lest Xin Lin and her father continue taking liberties."

Empress Feng advised.

"Your Majesty has your own judgment; summon all related parties from Chu Mansion to the palace."

Chu Beiqing stepped forward, and Emperor Longteng was originally inclined to forgive Chu Tianyi.

However, Empress Feng's words only added fuel to the fire, making Emperor Longteng plan to severely punish Xin Lin.

Xin Lin and others were summoned to the palace.

"This servant (This humble girl) pays respect to Your Majesty, may Your Majesty live for ten thousand, ten thousand years."

Seeing Empress Feng present, Xin Lin and her foolish father bowed.

Normally, Emperor Longteng would have exempted Chu Beiqing from the bowing.

But today, the four from Chu Mansion knelt down, yet Emperor Longteng was silent for a long while.

Chu Zhaonan and Chu Miaoyun were immediately sweating profusely.

"Xin Lin, are you aware of your crimes?"

Empress Feng huffed coldly.

"Replying to Empress, Xin Lin does not know what crime she has committed."

Xin Lin respectfully responded.

"How dare you! I heard you've been arrogant and uncontrolled in Qingtian Academy, allowing your fierce beast to continuously harm others, and even disabled Chen's Martial Meridian. Do you admit to this?"

Empress Feng glared fiercely at Xin Lin.

"This humble girl dares to act and bear responsibility. I did injure Chen, but I did not disable his Martial Meridian; he used improper methods privately to advance his Martial Soul, which backfired on him. The Spirit Institute Director can testify to this."

Xin Lin explained.

"What a glib tongue! You think, if you do not admit, I can't deal with you? Someone, bring the Truth Water."

Empress Feng swept her phoenix eyes, and with a wave, ordered a palace maid to fetch the potion.

Truth Water, a coercive potion used to make someone confess the truth.

Hearing that Empress Feng actually wanted to torture, Xin Lin slightly paled, kneeling beside.

Yet, Chu Miaoyun was overly joyous, even forgetting she came to plead for her father.

Empress is indeed Empress; this wretched girl Xin Lin can hardly escape this time.

"Darling... my knees... it hurts..."

Chu Beiqing, who had been kneeling for a while, grew impatient and stood up, pulling up Xin Lin.

"Chu Beiqing! How dare you stand without permission!"

Empress Feng flung her long sleeve furiously.

Emperor Longteng, standing beside with a stern face, remained silent.

Chu Beiqing, acting as if nothing had happened, rushed to Emperor Longteng and stuffed something dark into his hand.

Chapter 798: Suspicion

"Audacious! Chu Beiqing!"

Empress Feng was about to command people to seize Chu Beiqing.

"Hold on, everyone step back. Do not be disrespectful to Beiqing, he means no harm."

Emperor Longteng glanced at the item in his hand, his previously stern expression softened immediately.

He stared blankly at the object in his hands.

It was a roasted sweet potato still emanating heat.

"What filthy stuff is this, Emperor, are you alright?"

Empress Feng wore a face full of concern.

"It's a roasted sweet potato, Empress, you've probably never tasted it... When we were young, Bei Qing and I ate them together."

Emperor Longteng looked at Chu Beiqing's dirty hands and clothing; clearly, the roasted sweet potato was secretly brought in concealed within his robes.

When he was young and still the Crown Prince, the Grand Tutor summoned by the late Emperor was extremely strict.

He was slow-witted and often couldn't recite his lessons.

The Grand Tutor then commanded the palace maids and eunuchs to withhold his meals.

Dizzy with hunger, he once even fainted in the study.

In the middle of the night, he smelled a sweet fragrance, and upon awakening, he found a roasted sweet potato in his hand.

At that time, Chu Beiqing, only seven or eight years old, did not know where he got the roasted sweet potatoes from, having secretly scaled several palace walls to bring him pieces of it.

The famished Emperor Longteng felt that the few pieces of fragrant roasted sweet potatoes were the most delicious thing he had ever eaten in his life, unmatched even by the finest Spiritual Food.

Empress Feng looked puzzled as she watched Emperor Longteng peel the sweet potato, its thin skin like paper, easily revealing the honey-colored flesh inside.

Taking a bite, he found it full of a soft, fragrant sweetness, indescribably delicious.

Emperor Longteng's palate, spoiled by Spiritual Food and various rare delicacies, found warmth in a piece of roasted sweet potato, an unspeakable comfort.

"Delicious, this sweet potato is really good."

"Reporting to the Emperor, this sweet potato was grown and baked by me. My father had just secretly kept a piece, I thought he wanted to keep it for a snack, but instead, he was thinking of the Emperor."

Xin Lin spoke softly, her face filled with "apprehension."

"Your father, has taken good care of me since childhood."

Emperor Longteng sighed.

"Empress, the Truth Water indeed has a certain toxicity after consumption, there's no need to take it. I believe Xin Lin's words. She is a sensible child, she wouldn't harm anyone without reason. Issue my decree, reward Prince Chen with two beautiful and talented women."

The implication was as clear as it could be.

Prince Chen's son with wasted veins—one more child, and that would count as compensation.

It seems the matter of the wasted veins will no longer be pursued.

Upon hearing this, a flash of coldness swept through Empress Feng's phoenix eyes.

Just over a piece of sweet potato, Emperor Longteng's attitude changed completely?

Does this sweet potato possess some magical power?

"What the Emperor said is right; I was inconsiderate."

Empress Feng agreed reluctantly and reluctantly nodded.

"Xin Lin, you roasted this sweet potato? Your culinary skill is not bad, who did you learn it from?"

Emperor Longteng still held that piece of roasted sweet potato in his hands.

In Emperor Longteng's eyes, there was a hint of shrewdness.

A discerning assessment of whether it's a mule or a horse is right before him—just needs to be paraded to know.

This roasted sweet potato by Xin Lin is the most delicious among all the roasted sweet potatoes Emperor Longteng had eaten.

"Reporting to the Emperor, since I was young, I followed my mother, who has excellent culinary skills. Not only can I roast sweet potatoes, I can also make steamed buns. The White Jade Steamed Buns that Lady Shipin previously loved were made by me."

Xin Lin replied confidently.

Chapter 799: Three-star Spirit Chef

Xin Lin's casual remark, yet when it falls into the ears of Emperor Longteng and Empress Feng, it is like a thunderbolt striking the ground.

Two people are both startled.

But one is pleasantly surprised, while the other is frightened.

"Did you make the plain steamed buns?"

In the eyes of Emperor Longteng, there is boundless elation.

"Indeed, the buns are the signature dish of Chu's Restaurant and not something grand enough for a great occasion. Previously, I sold some buns merely to provide for the family. Later, due to becoming a Spiritual Delicacy Master, I had to close shop midway."

Xin Lin answers obediently.

The Emperor is also aware of Chu Beiqing's separation from Chu Mansion.

Although there are injustices involved, the affair is ultimately a family matter of the Chu Mansion, and Emperor Longteng does not feel it is appropriate to directly intervene.

Later, when he heard that Chu Mansion had reorganized quite well, Emperor Longteng did not inquire further. Unexpectedly, Xin Lin, who comes from the countryside, has a remarkable talent for managing household affairs.

"Xin Lin, stop boasting. That White Jade Steamed Bun obviously comes from the hands of an expert, and even the Imperial Chefs of the palace can't produce it. How could you make such buns with the crude skills learned from your mother?"

Empress Feng's red lips slightly purse, her face full of disbelief.

She had been investigating the origin of the White Jade Steamed Bun and found no information.

"My mother's cooking skills may not be exceptional, but I had the chance to learn how to make steamed buns from Master Ji Lan. The deliciousness of the buns lies not only in their appearance but also in the

Purple Cloud Cabbage inside and the selected water used for kneading the dough, all meticulously chosen by me. I personally planted and harvested the Purple Cloud Cabbage and this roasted sweet potato. I dare not claim anything else, but within Purple Cloud City, no one can find better quality cabbage and sweet potatoes than those I've grown."

Xin Lin puffs up her little chest, her face full of pride.

"Isn't Ji Lan the Master Ji from Taoyao Pavilion?"

Emperor Longteng supports Xin Lin.

"I have been looking for you. Do you know why I was seeking you?"

A smile appears on the face of Emperor Longteng.

Getting rid of a Master Ji and finding a Xin Lin is like discovering a delightful surprise in a dark moment; hoping for Xin Lin's roasted sweet potatoes and bun-making skills, Emperor Longteng feels very confident about her for the upcoming Spiritual Banquet.

"Could it be that Your Majesty wishes to eat steamed buns? However, Your Majesty, I can only make White Jade Steamed Buns and pork cabbage buns."

Xin Lin appears "innocently."

"Being able to make a few is enough. I will have the Imperial Kitchen help out with some pastries. Master Chen from De Yue Building is in charge of the main banquet outside the palace, and you will handle the supplementary banquet, including pastries and cold dishes. If you do well, I will pardon the crimes of your second uncle."

Emperor Longteng is also shrewd.

Just because of the face of Chu Bei Qing, he would have to pardon Chu Tianyi.

But, as Empress Feng mentioned, the Chu Mansion has been overly bold due to royal favor; it is essential to combine grace with authority to make the people of the Chu Mansion useful and grateful.

Chu Miaoyun and Chu Zhaonan, hearing this, are overjoyed, constantly winking and gesturing at Xin Lin to quickly agree.

"Your Majesty, to have her in charge of the supplementary banquet outside the palace is surely taking things too lightly. She is not even a Spiritual Delicacy Master!"

Empress Feng is quite dissatisfied.

"Yes, Your Majesty, I am not yet a Spiritual Delicacy Master; presiding over a longevity banquet would be inappropriate. You should find someone more skilled."

Xin Lin waves her hands in refusal.

"A Spiritual Delicacy Master is just a title — having tasted the White Jade Steamed Buns you made, I find them even tastier than those from De Yue Building. I confer upon you the title of a Three-star Spirit Chef, so now it all makes sense."

Emperor Longteng says with a smile.

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The Emperor is immensely pleased, granting the title of a three-star Spirit Chef with just one bite?

This...

Empress Feng's phoenix eyes widened, her face filled with disbelief.

"Thank you, Emperor. I, Xin Lin, will etch your grace deep into my heart, but as for my second uncle... he really has made an unforgivable mistake this time."

Xin Lin was initially overjoyed, but soon her voice deepened with solemnity.

"Emperor, please spare my father. He was framed; my father is an upright man who respects my mother as a guest, he doesn't even have a concubine, how could he commit such an act? It was only because he was careless and drank a little last night that he momentarily lost his composure."

Afraid that Xin Lin would blabber nonsense, Chu Miaoyun quickly kowtowed and begged for mercy.

"Ai, my second uncle was indeed careless. Prince Tu of Tu Yuan Country who drank with him is fine, so why did only he get into trouble? Whether he was framed can be confirmed by calling Prince Tu. Emperor, you must know of Prince Tu, a distinguished guest from Tuyuan."

Xin Lin blinked.

Tuyuan.

Emperor Longteng's expression darkened.

Chu Tianyi, a mere Imperial Physician, not involved in politics, how could he form ties with a delegate from Tuyuan, and moreover at a drinking party?

No wonder, last night when I saw Chu Tianyi, his face was slightly flushed and he smelled of makeup.

There were no signs of poisoning or being drugged on his body.

"Death can be pardoned, but living sins cannot. Chu Tianyi, being an official yet lacking integrity, is stripped from his sixth-grade Imperial Physician title, to reflect behind closed doors for three years. During this period, he cannot be employed or practice medicine, violators will be severely punished."

Emperor Longteng huffed, and with a decree, sent an eunuch to the Heavenly Prison to announce it.

Chu Miaoyun collapsed onto the ground upon hearing this.

Beside her, Chu Zhaonan also sighed deeply, helping Chu Miaoyun up and comforting her with good words.

"Thank you, Emperor."

Xin Lin and everyone from Chu Mansion withdrew.

"Xin Lin, you did it on purpose! You intentionally mentioned my father's good relations with Prince Tu! I remember now, you used to assist in Taoyao Pavilion, it must be you, you conspired with people from Taoyao Pavilion to set up my father!"

From the daughter of an Imperial Physician, Chu Miaoyun instantly became the daughter of a criminal, filled with anger, she rushed forward to grapple with Xin Lin.

Unbeknownst to her, Chu Bei Qing stepped in front of Xin Lin and kicked Chu Miaoyun several feet away.

"Chu Bei Qing, you fool, you and your bastard daughter will not die a good death!"

Chu Miaoyun, face red with fury, gathered her Spiritual Energy, ready to strike, but was stopped by Chu Zhaonan.

"Miao Yun, have you gone mad? Your father has just been punished, and you are committing violence in the palace, do you want to doom Chu Mansion!"

Chu Zhaonan's face was stern as he scolded.

This time, although Chu Tianyi was demoted, it seemed like a bad thing but for Chu Zhaonan, it was a great opportunity.

As long as Chu Bei Qing is present, Emperor Longteng will inevitably feel guilty towards Chu Mansion.

Now in Chu Mansion, only the Old Master Chu, still in seclusion, holds an official title. With the old master in seclusion for years, it is as if no one in Chu Mansion holds an official title.

Chu Zhaonan, the third son, finally saw his chance. He planned that once the birthday banquet was over and the storm around Chu Tianyi calmed, he would use his wit to seek a minor official position from Emperor Longteng.

"You just wait and see, I won't let you and your father off."

Chu Miaoyun with a flushed face, stomped her foot and quickly ran out.

"Xin Lin, at this birthday banquet, you must perform well. Your third uncle believes in you, you will surely bring glory to Chu Mansion."

Chu Zhaonan's face was full of flattery.

"Third uncle, I want to ask you something, did my father ever have a conflict with Tuyuan back in the day?"

Xin Lin glanced at Chu Zhaonan, probing.